

## Problem Solving Courts Committee – Policy Subcommittee

December 14, 2007  
Indiana Judicial Center, Room 1068  
1:00 – 3:00 pm

### Meeting Minutes

- I. Judge Christ-Garcia called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Members present were Judge Blau, Judge Brugnaux, Judge Johnson, Judge Salinas, and Judge Surbeck. Other individuals in attendance were Jamie Bergacs, Mary Kay Hudson, JoAnn Miller and Diane Mains.

- II. Legislative Survey Results and Discussion

The Problem Solving Court Committee approved the development of a legislative survey for 2009 at the November 2, 2007, meeting (meeting minutes distributed). The survey was distributed. Eighteen responses were received by the Judicial Center (summary handout distributed). The primary issues of concern were noted as funding for drug courts and the user fee structure. Other issues raised included, promoting legislation for CHINS and mental health problem-solving courts.

Strategic planning for drug court funding was discussed in detail. It was noted that Chief Justice Shepard has discussed the possibility of pursuing state-level funding for drug courts. Mary Kay Hudson reported that she has drafted a memo to state stakeholders and is waiting on approval from the Chief Justice before distribution.

Drug court funding in other states was discussed. Some states (e.g. KY, MI, MN, MO and WI) have a line-item in the state budget for drug courts. Other states rely on grant funding distributed through state appropriations. Members discussed the possibility of utilizing a 501(c)(3) structure to collect and distribute funds to support drug courts.

Members agreed to use the results of the NPC Research of five adult drug courts in Indiana as the basis for developing a fiscal proposal requesting state-leveling funding for drug courts in Indiana. Members will explore the best methodology to distribute state funding (i.e. formulary, grant funding appropriations or direct appropriations to each court) under this proposal.

Members discussed the need to identify potential sponsors for a state-level funding legislative proposal.

#### Tasks for next meeting:

- (1) Develop a list of possible legislative bill sponsors

- (2) Gather information on funding models from surrounding states to determine what may work in Indiana
- (3) Identify the drug court costs per person using the NPC Research results as the basis for developing state proposal

### III. Defining Problem-Solving Courts

Members discussed the need for defining the term “problem-solving court” to support efforts across the state to improve court processes and outcomes with innovative approaches and at the same time establish a common understanding of this concept. The Problem Solving Courts Committee purpose and statement of principles and the Nonprofit Organizational Lifecycle Model were distributed in furtherance of this discussion. Members agreed that the definition must be broad enough to encompass many different types of court processes and target populations.

#### Task for next meeting:

- (1) Collect the Center for Court Innovations material and other relevant documents on developing a problem-solving court to assist with defining the general principles of these courts

### IV. Problem-Solving Courts List and Resource Catalog

The Problem-Solving Courts list compiled on May 17, 2007, was distributed and discussed. Members decided to publish this list on the Judicial Center web site to serve as a resource to other courts. This list is intended to be a general resource without assurances to any standardized practices or certification unless otherwise indicated.

#### Tasks for next meeting:

- (1) Send an advisory email to all the courts on the Problem-Solving Courts list to announce the pending publication of this document
- (2) Publish the Indiana Problem-Solving Courts list on the internet

### V. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

Education Subcommittee	January 18, 2008, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (conference call)
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Policy Subcommittee	January 18, 2008, 1:00 – 3:00 pm (conference call)
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Problem Solving Courts Committee	February 29, 2008, 1:00 pm
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### VI. Judge Christ-Garcia adjourned the meeting at 2:45